Mr. Stanton's Dispatch. Washington, August 18, 9.30 P. M.

To Major General Dix, New York:

A dispatch from General Grant, dated Monday, the 16th, 6 30 P. M., detained by the breaking of the telegraph line, has just been received. He reports that the fightnig north of the James river to day (16th) has resulted favorably to us so far as it has gone, but there has been no decisive result.

The enemy has been driven back somewhat from their position of this morning, with a considerable loss in killed and wounded and about four hundred prisoners. The well ones were left in our hands. Two brigadier generals-Chamblin and Sherrard-were killed, and their bodies left in our hands. We also have quite a number of wounded prisoners.

Since moving north of the river, our losses will probably reach near one thousand killed and wounded; many, however, only slightly wounded, owing to so much of the fighting taking place in thick woods. The enemy have lost about as many that have fallen into our

hands. The department has intelligence from Gen. Sherman to half-past eleven last night, but no

operations are reported.

A dispatch from General Sheridan at Winchester, dated August 17, 10 A. M., reports that General Merritt's division of cavalry was attacked yesterday afternoon on the north side of the Shenandoah by Kershaw's division, of Longstreet's corps, and Wickham's and Lomax's brigades of cavalry. After a very handsome cavalry fight, the enemy were badly beaten, with a loss of two stands of colors, twenty four officers, and two hundred and seventy six men prisoners.

In a later dispatch, General Sheridan says the cavalry engagement in front of Front Royal was splendid. It was on open ground. The sabre was freely used by our men. Great credit is due to Generals Merritt, Custar, and Colonel Divins.

EDWIN M. STANTOM, Secretary of War.

The Washington Chronicle, after stating, that in a peace settlement, the Federal government cannot restore one slave whom it has set free, says, "nevertheless, it may be questionable whether the Government stands pledged to give liberty to those slaves who have never been within the Union lines since the issue of of the emancipation proclamation, because, whether from disinclination or otherwise, the offer of freedom was not accepted, in fact, nor has the Government been aided by that class of slaves in its efforts to suppress the rebellion."

## 1864

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